

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ITF-05 EA-06 SR-02 ORM-01 IO-10 AID-05

SCA-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W

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P 061130Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3730

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 0860

EO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMG SREF PFOR VS MR

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 822

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER BRAHAM CALLED ME IN MAY 5 TO
CONVEY RESPONSE TO APRIL 30 APPROACH (REFTEL) URGING GIRM
TO ADMIT NUMBER OF VMETNAMESE REFUGEES. MINISTER MADE
FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. US AND GIRM HAVE FOR MANY YEARS VIEWED VIET NAM
DIFFERENTLY AND HAVE PURSUED CONFLICTING POLICIES;

B. GIRM ALMOST FROM OUTSET HAS SUPPORTED PROVISIONAL
GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIET NAM AND HAS OPPOSED THIEU REGIME
AND ITS PREDECESSORS.

C. TO ADMIT MEMBERS OF OR SUPPORTERS OF THIEU REGIME
WHO ARE FLEEING FROM PRG WOULD BE COMPLETE NEGATION OF POLICY
GIRM LONG AGO ADOPTED AND HAS FOLLOWED CONSISTENTLY OVER
THE YEARS. SUCH A DECISION WOULD BE TOTALLY ILLOGICAL IN
CONTEXT GIRM'S HISTORIC STANCE.

D. WHILE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING QUALIFIED
PROFESSIONALS AND SKILLED WORKERS IS ATTRACTIVE ONE,
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POLITICAL STANCE AND LOGIC MUST BE OVERRIDING CONSIDERATIONS.

GIRM'S GENUINE NEED FOR SKILLED CADRES MUST BE SATISFIED IN OTHER WAYS. SPECIFICALLY GIRM BELIEVES IT MUST OBTAIN SKILLED PEOPLE IT NEEDS THROUGH REQUESTS TO US, FRANCE, OR OTHER COUNTRIES WITH WHICH ITS RELATIONSHIP IS CLEAR-CUT AND UNAMBIGUOUS.

E. GIRM APPRECIATED HUMANITARIAN DIMENSION OF PROBLEM AS OUTLINED IN US APPROACH, BUT HAD CONCLUDED POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS WERE REAL AND COULD NOT BE PUT TO ONE SIDE.

2. IN RESPONSE, I STATED I COULD UNDERSTAND REASONS FOR GIRM'S NEGATIVE DECISION, BUT WAS NEVERTHELESS DISAPPOINTED WITH OUTCOME. I THEN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR FACT GIRM HAD STUDIED PROBLEM SERIOUSLY WITH OPEN MIND AND IN SPIRIT OF HUMANITARIAN CONCERN IN WHICH IT HAD BEEN RAISED.

#3. MINISTER CLOSED MEETING WITH RESTATEMENT OF GIRM'S DESIRE TO MAINTAIN CLOSEHAND GOOD RELATIONS WITH UNITED STATES. HE INDICATED GIRM VERY MUCH DESIRES TO COOPERATE ON EVER CLOSER BASIS AND ACROSS EVER BROADER SPECTRUM OF ACTIVITIES WITH US. HE HOPES THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE OVER NEXTFEW YEARS TOACHIEVE THIS OBJECTIVE.HANDYSIDE

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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